

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S.-TURKISH SECURITY RELATIONSHIP
AND NATO-GREEK RELATIONS

REF: (A) ANKARA 2798, DTG 141250Z APR 77; (B) ANKARA 2755,
DTG 131345Z APR 77

1. LIBERAL DAILY "MILLIYET" APRIL 16 CONTINUED ITS REPORTAGE
(REFTELS) ON THE U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH INTER-
VIEW WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, MELIH ESENBEL,
NOW VISITING ANKARA ON CONSULTATIONS. ESENBEL REPORTEDLY
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN "MILLIYET" INTERVIEW:

--CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ANNOUNCE ON APRIL 18 THAT IT
ENDORSES U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT" AND THAT
ADMINISTRATION WILL REQUEST TOTAL OF \$250 MILLION IN
MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING \$175 MILLION FMS CREDIT AND
\$75 MILLION GRANT AID.

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--ADMINISTRATION WILL ALSO (ASK CONGRESS TO) LIFT CEILING
ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MILITARY SALES, ELIMINATING THIS
VESTIGE OF EMBARGO LEGISLATION; ONLY REMAINING ELEMENT OF
EMBARGO, ACCORDING TO ESENBEL, WOULD BE BAN ON GRANT AID
TO TURKEY.

--USG PLANS TO PHASE OUT GRANT MILITARY AID AND WILL CONTINUE GRANT AID PROGRAMS ONLY IN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S. HAS DEFENSE AGREEMENTS; AFTER CONGRESS APPROVES U.S.-TURKISH DCA, "A FURTHER" \$75 MILLION IN GRANT AID WILL BE GIVEN TO TURKEY.--

--ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR RESTORING U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES "HEALTHY TIMING" IN SECURING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND DCA, BUT DCA SHOULD REPEAT SHOULD BE RATIFIED THIS YEAR.

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH "MILLIYET" CARRIED IN APRIL 17 EDITION, FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL REITERATED THAT TURKISH ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN WEAKENED BY U.S. ARMS TRANSFER LIMITATIONS. ON GREEK-NATO RELATIONS, CAGLAYANGIL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOT DOES NOT WANT GREECE TO LEAVE NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE BUT "IF GREECE DEMANDS A PRICE FOR HER REMAINING IN THE NATO INTEGRATED STRUCTURE AND ATTEMPTS TO MAKE TURKEY PAY IT, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO PAY THAT PRICE." CAGLAYANGIL ALSO SAID THAT "GREECE'S SIDESTEPPING OF SOME OF HER COMMITMENTS BY STATING THAT SHE HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE IS OBVIOUS AND SHE HAS TIRED TO OBTAIN SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGES WHILE CONTINUING TO ENJOY THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING PART OF THE INTEGRATED STRUCTURE. IN THIS WAY (GREECE) AIMS AT BOTH HARMING THE DEFENSE INTERESTS OF TURKEY AND MAKING OUR ALLIES PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY OVER CYPRUS AND GRECO-TURKISH QUESTIONS BY CREATING THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE MAY LEAVE NATO ALTOGETHER. I SHOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT OUR ALLIES HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT SO FAR ACTED IN A MANNER TO JUSTIFY THESE CALCULATIONS OF GREECE."

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